

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) In combination:

a) a specimen container attachment, comprising:

an attachment ring adapted for attachment to a specimen container, the attachment ring having annular inner and outer sides and generally circular top and bottom edges;

the attachment ring has a threaded portion on the inner side of the attachment ring located towards the bottom edge of the attachment ring;

the outer side of the attachment ring having a plurality of elongated gripping ridges, the gripping ridges being generally evenly spaced apart around the outer side of the attachment ring, the gripping ridges having longitudinal axes substantially parallel with one another, the longitudinal axes of the gripping ridges extending substantially perpendicular to planes defined by the top and bottom edges of the attachment ring, the gripping ridges having upper and lower ends, the lower ends of the gripping ridges being positioned adjacent the bottom edge of the attachment ring, the upper ends of the gripping ridges being positioned towards and spaced apart from the top edge of the attachment ring, the upper ends of the gripping ridges lying in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of the top edge of the attachment ring;

the outer side of the attachment ring having an annular lip extending therearound adjacent the bottom edge of the attachment ring, the lower ends of the gripping ridges being in contact with the annular lip of the attachment ring;

a peripheral wall extending from the top edge of the attachment ring; the peripheral wall having a base coupled to the top edge of the attachment ring, an outer edge, and opposing receiving and capturing areas;

the outer edge of the peripheral wall having a generally U-shaped region extending towards the base of the peripheral wall and located in the receiving area of the peripheral wall defining a generally U-shaped receiving space of the receiving area of the peripheral wall, the U-shaped region of the outer edge of the peripheral wall having an arcuate lower portion positioned towards the base of the peripheral wall, the U-shaped region of the outer edge of the peripheral wall having a generally smooth and rounded exterior surface;

an upper region of the outer edge of the peripheral wall located in the capturing area of the peripheral wall lying in a plane spaced apart and above a plane defined by the U-shaped region of the outer edge of the peripheral wall located in the receiving area of the peripheral wall, a portion of the capturing area of the peripheral wall facing the receiving space of the receiving area of the peripheral wall; and

the outer edge of the peripheral wall having a pair of side regions extending between the receiving and capturing areas of the peripheral wall, the side regions sloping downwards from the upper region of the outer edge of the

peripheral wall to the U-shaped region of the outer edge of the peripheral wall;  
and

- b) a specimen container having a base and a side wall upwardly extending around the base and terminating at an upper edge that defines a top opening into the specimen container;

the side wall of the specimen container having a threaded portion adjacent the upper edge of the side wall of the specimen container; and

the threaded portions of the side wall of the specimen container and the attachment ring of the specimen container attachment being threadably mated together to couple the attachment ring to the specimen container so that the peripheral wall of the specimen container attachment upwardly extends above the top opening of the specimen container.

15. – 28. (Canceled).